Situation update

- No new human cases have been reported from Somalia this week. Outbreak response activities continue around the concurrent outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) type 2 and type 3.
- The total number of cases remains 12: five cVDPV2 cases, six cVDPV3 cases, and one case with cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 co-infection.
- Environment sampling continues in five sites in Somalia. This week, no new positive samples have been reported. A total 28 positive environmental samples have been confirmed in 2018.
- Post-campaign monitoring is underway for the third national immunization days (NIDs) round using bOPV. The campaign, which was synchronized with Kenya and Ethiopia, aimed to reach 3 million children under five, with a focus on high-risk populations including IDPs and Nomadic populations.
Immunization Response

- WHO and UNICEF continue to work with the Ministry of Health and local partners to improve outbreak responsiveness and timely sharing of data sharing at the District, Regional and National levels. Efforts are concentrated on strategies for strengthening immunization activities to reach populations in and around inaccessible areas and those high risk groups such as internally displaced and nomadic populations.

- Health and humanitarian access remains reduced across the central southern areas of the country. Lower and Middle Juba regions are particularly inaccessible due to ongoing insecurity and conflict.

CVDpV2

- Planning continues for the mOPV2 round in response to the ongoing detection of cVDPV2. Vaccines have arrived in Nairobi and will be dispatched this week. The campaign is planned in nine regions of south and central zones from mid-November, and will be synchronized with border areas of Kenya and Somalia.

CVDpV3

- The third nationwide round, in response to the ongoing circulation of cVDPV3, is ongoing in some regions of Somalia. Almost 15,000 vaccinator teams were a part of the campaign, delivering high potency Vitamin A capsules alongside bOPV. Refined settlement-based microplans were used to map out every child in all accessible districts for vaccination. This campaign vaccination teams were aiming to reach more than 3 million children under five, with high priority being given to high-risk groups such IDPs and nomadic families.

- Intra-campaign monitoring, conducted by independent monitors, indicates 98% coverage of the target population, however, full data from post campaign monitoring is expected to be available in the next week.

- More than 2.6 million children under five years received vaccination in the second bOPV round (in early October) as indicated by post-campaign monitoring. Over 30,000 children under five were reported vaccinated for the first time in this campaign.

Communication for Development

- Around 2700 social mobilizers and members of the National Islamic Advisory Group (NIAG) were instrumental in engaging communities in house-to-house visits, community level meetings and in areas of high traffic during the last nationwide campaign. An emphasis was placed on talking with communities and their traditional leaders about refusals as they were identified. Special attention was paid to nomadic settlements and IDP camps.

Surveillance

- A total of 295 AFP cases have been reported in Somalia in 2018. South and Central Zones have accounted for 61% of the AFP cases reported in 2018.

- All regions except for one are reaching both key indicators for AFP surveillance (3* or more NPAFP cases per 100,000 children below 15 years of age, and 80 percent or above AFP cases with adequate specimens). Due to inaccessibility, Banadir region (2.4) is not meeting the non-polio AFP (NPAFP) rate. Teams continue to explore methods to improve security and access.

- Somalia continues to carry out supplementary surveillance activities to enhance the programme’s ability to detect virus circulation, including weekly environmental sampling from five sites. cVDPV3 has been isolated from 10 sewage samples at the Mogadishu site; cVDPV2 has been isolated from 17 sewage samples in Mogadishu, with the date of specimen collection of the recent most positive sample 23 August and 20 September 2018, respectively. One specimen had co-infection of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3.

*NPAFP target in an outbreak setting is 3 per 100,000 children below 15 years of age
From the field

Social Mobilisers paid special attention to nomadic communities in the lead up and during the round. Photo: UNICEF Somalia

Communities residing in IDP camps were informed of the round and the importance of vaccination by social mobilisers. Photo: UNICEF Somalia

Vaccinators took bold steps to reach every child with vaccines during the nationwide campaign. Photo: WHO Somalia

Relevant Links

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website, updated weekly.
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses video
- Responding to an outbreak of VDPV video
- What is vaccine-derived polio?
- GPEI factsheet—VDPV

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